**Prompts**

1. The debate over privatization of water has grown more heated in recent years as water management becomes increasingly critical and complex.  Who manages the water where you live?  How much does it cost per unit?  How much would you be willing to pay? Discuss the pros and cons of water privatization.
2. Consider the distinction between water as a commodity and water as a human right. Many believe that if the price of water reflected its true value, people would be motivated to use it more efficiently.  Others argue that access to clean, safe, and affordable water is a human right.  Which argument do you find more compelling and why?  Are there other examples of a natural resource that is seen as both a commodity and human right?
3. Given its critical importance to life on earth and increasing tensions between who has water and who doesn’t, it has been said that water is the oil of the 21st Century.  What are the implications of this statement?  Do you agree?  Why or why not?
4. Studies have shown that every $1 investment in sanitation results in a benefit of anywhere between five to ten times that amount.  Why do you think this is?  What are some economic benefits of improved sanitation?
5. The average American consumes 150 gallons/day while people in developing countries have trouble finding even five gallons.  The recommended daily water requirement is 13 gallons per day per person.  What can individuals do in the context of their own lives – in their homes, workplaces, schools, and communities – to reduce their water footprint?  What do you think it will take to get people to reduce their water consumption?  How will education, policy change, and new technology play a role?
6. Consider the ways in which water intersects with some of the global issues and countries examined in past editions of the World Savvy Monitor (for example:  Sudan, China, Women, Migration, Mexico, Poverty and International Development).  Chose one past edition and discuss the importance of water within the context of that issue or country.